

I Claim:

1. A method for providing personal identification on checks issued by a payor to payees which includes the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a digital image of each payee;
- (b) assigning a unique filename to each said digital image which is

5 uniquely associated with each payee;

(c) storing each said digital image on a computer storage medium using each said unique filename;

(d) selecting payee data for check printing, said data including, for each payee, said unique filename;

10 (e) printing checks for said payee data for each check, each said check being printed with an image of the payee retrieved from said computer storage medium using said unique filename,

whereby each check will include, in addition to the other information, a photographic image of the payee to whom such check was written.

2. The method for providing personal identification on checks issued by a payor to payees of Claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining a digital image is accomplished by taking a photograph using a digital camera.

3. The method for providing personal identification on checks issued by a payor to payees of Claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining a digital image is accomplished by scanning a conventional photograph.

4. The method for providing personal identification on checks issued by a payor to payees of Claim 1 wherein the step of assigning a unique filename is accomplished by using assigning a name uniquely associated with each said payee, such name being selected from the group consisting of the payee's social security number, the payee's employee identification number, and the key field in the database containing the payee's data.

5. The method for providing personal identification on checks issued by a payor to payees of Claim 1 wherein the step of selecting payee data for check printing is accomplished by using data from each payee's data record to generate a filename which is uniquely associated with each said payee's image file.